CLAIMS

1   1. A method for monitoring the presence of a client from a server via a communications

2   network, comprising:

3   establishing a connection with said client via said communications network, wherein

4   said server receives a request;

5   transmitting a static web page to a web browser of said web client related to said

6   request;

7   determining whether data related to said request is ready for transmission to said web

8   client;

9   transmitting said data to said client when said data is ready for transmission; and

10   transmitting a byte stream to said web client, when said data is not ready for

11   transmission.

1   2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   waiting for a response from said client subsequent to said transmitting said byte stream;

3   and

4   if said response indicates said client is present:

5   determining whether said data related to said request is ready for transmission

6   to said client, including:

7   transmitting said data to said client when said data is ready for transmission;

8   transmitting a byte stream to said client when said data is not ready for

9   transmission; and

10   if said response indicates said client is not present:

11   aborting said request.

1   3. The method of claim 1, wherein said static page is transmitted to a second browser

2   window of said client, said second browser window being opened subsequent to said request.

1   4. The method of claim 1, wherein said static page includes a response message

2   relating to said request.

1   5. The method of claim 1 wherein said request includes a request whereby said data

2   requested by said client has been located.

1   6. The method of claim 1 wherein said request includes a request that is in progress.

1   7. The method of claim 1, wherein said byte stream includes a null message.

1   8. The method of claim 1, wherein said byte stream includes an advertisement.

1   9. The method of claim 2 wherein said response includes an error code.

1   10. The method of claim 2 wherein said response indicates that said client is present.

1   11. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for

2   monitoring the presence of a web client from a server via a communications network, the

3   storage medium including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method

4   comprising:

5   establishing a connection with said client via said communications network, wherein

6   said server receives a request;

7   transmitting a static web page to a web browser of said web client related to said

8   request;

9   determining whether data related to said request is ready for transmission to said web

10   client;

11   transmitting said data to said client when said data is ready for transmission; and

12   transmitting a byte stream to said web client, when said data is not ready for

13   transmission.

1   12. The storage medium of claim 11, further comprising instructions for causing a

2 computer to implement:

3   waiting for a response from said client subsequent to said transmitting said byte stream;

4 and

5   if said response indicates said client is present:

6   determining whether said data related to said request is ready for transmission

7 to said client, including:

8   transmitting said data to said client when said data is ready for transmission;

9   transmitting a byte stream to said client when said data is not ready for

10 transmission; and

11   if said response indicates said client is not present:

12   aborting said request.

1   13. The storage medium of claim 11, wherein said static page is transmitted to a

2 second browser window of said client, said second browser window being opened subsequent

3 to said request.

1   14. The storage medium of claim 11, wherein said static page includes a response

2 message relating to said request.

1   15. The storage medium of claim 11 wherein said request includes a request whereby

2 said data requested by said client has been located.

1   16. The storage medium of claim 11 wherein said request includes a request that is in

2 progress.

1   17. The storage medium of claim 11, wherein said byte stream includes a null message.

1   18. The storage medium of claim 11, wherein said byte stream includes an

2 advertisement.

1   19. The storage medium of claim 12 wherein said response includes an error code.

1   20. The storage medium of claim 12 wherein said response indicates that said client is

2 present.